

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AA406M/3J	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 16918	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/06/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 21/06/1999
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

US 00/16918

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C11D11/00 C11D17/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 00 24863 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 4 May 2000 (2000-05-04) page 9, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3; claims 1,3; example III ---	1-3,6, 8-12, 16-20
A	DE 44 35 743 A (CHEMOLUX SARL) 24 August 1995 (1995-08-24) column 3, line 64 -column 4, line 11; claims 1,3 ---	1,2,4-9, 12,16, 19,20
A	WO 98 24876 A (UNILEVER) 11 June 1998 (1998-06-11) page 12, line 22 - line 29 page 14, line 10 - line 14; claim 1 --- -/--	1,2, 4-12, 16-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/10/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Saunders, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

US 00/16918

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 90 15856 A (NOVONORDISK AS) 27 December 1990 (1990-12-27) example 1 -----	1,3,6, 8-13, 16-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/16918

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0024863	A	04-05-2000	AU 1219300 A WO 0024859 A	15-05-2000 04-05-2000
DE 4435743	A	24-08-1995	NONE	
WO 9824876	A	11-06-1998	AU 721831 B AU 5316898 A BR 9714494 A CN 1245530 A EP 0942958 A ZA 9709825 A	13-07-2000 29-06-1998 21-03-2000 23-02-2000 22-09-1999 30-04-1999
WO 9015856	A	27-12-1990	AT 98295 T AU 641672 B AU 5960190 A BR 9007470 A DE 69005112 D DE 69005112 T DK 478684 T EG 19045 A EP 0478684 A ES 2046788 T JP 4506229 T MX 21242 A NZ 234159 A PT 94439 A,B TR 27368 A US 5376288 A	15-12-1993 30-09-1993 08-01-1991 16-06-1992 20-01-1994 14-04-1994 18-04-1994 30-12-1994 08-04-1992 01-02-1994 29-10-1992 01-11-1993 29-01-1992 08-02-1991 17-01-1995 27-12-1994

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

14

Applicant's or agent's file reference AA406M/3J	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/16918	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 21/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D11/00		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27/12/2000	Date of completion of this report 05.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Schambeck, W Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2135 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/16918

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-18 with telefax of 09/08/2001

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/16918

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/16918

Independent claims 1 and 11 define granular detergent compositions comprising detergent granules coated with a mixture of an anionic surfactant and a hydrotrope.

According to the applicants' submissions in a fax dated 9 August 2001, the anionic surfactant and the hydrotrope synergistically cooperate in such a manner as to provide enhanced solubility of the detergent composition.

No disclosure can be found in the available prior art documents of detergent granules coated with a mixture of an anionic surfactant and a hydrotrope.

Nor do these documents contain any technical information which might render foreseeable the technical success claimed to have been achieved by the applicants.